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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Ronald Miller et al. Atty. Dkt. No.: SYN-0155COM1

Assignee: Synopsys, Inc.

Title: DETAILED PLACER FOR OPTIMIZING HIGH DENSITY CELL  
PLACEMENT IN A LINEAR RUNTIME

Serial No. 09/976,960-2910 File Date: October 11, 2001

Examiner: Phallaka Kik (Anticipated) Art Unit: 2825

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COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
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SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Initial Comments

Claims 1-57 were cancelled and 58-77 were added in a first preliminary amendment dated October 11, 2001. Applicants respectfully request entry of new Claims 78-121 in this second preliminary amendment for U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/976,960-2910. These new claims substantially correspond to the claims recited in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/437,996-8726 (Application 996). Application 996 was unintentionally abandoned due to inaction on the part of the previous counsel representing the Applicants (see attached Notice of Abandonment dated March 25, 2003, including an Interview Summary dated March 20, 2003). Applicants were unaware of this inaction until Application 996 was abandoned.

During a telephone conference on April 22, 2003, with the new counsel representing Applicants, Examiner Kik indicated that he would consider a new set of claims added to the present application, wherein this new set of claims (i.e. Claims 78-121)

05/07/2003	00000180	<u>1</u>	<u>1201</u>	\$924.00	05/06/2003	DA 500574
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substantially correspond to the claims recited in Application 996.

Of importance, new Claims 78-121 include limitations, which Applicants believe distinguish such claims from the cited art in Application 996. Applicants have provided remarks herein to support Applicants' position.

Applicants greatly appreciate Examiner Kik's agreement to consider the new set of claims (see Claims 78-121 below). Applicants believe that the expertise of Examiner Kik, as demonstrated in Application 996, will be extremely beneficial in the examination of this new set of claims.